

## Message Text

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60

ORIGIN ARA-20

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 PM-07 L-03 CIAE-00 INR-10 NSAE-00

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DRAFTED BY DOD/ISA/FMRA:RGLONG/KLWAUCHOPE

1/28/74

APPROVED BY ARA:HWSHLAUDEMAN

DOD/ISA - CAPT GOODEN

PM/ISO - JDSTODDART

L/PM - JMICHEL (SUBS)

ARA/CAR - JRBURKE

PM/AE - GOPLINGER

----- 080865

R 061602Z FEB 74

FM SECSTATE WASHDC

TO AMEMBASSY NASSAU

DOD WASHDC

CNO WASHDC

NAVFACENGCOM ALEXANDRIA VA

ONR WASHDC

NAVFAC ELEUTHERA BAHAMAS

NAVNUPWRU FORT BELVOIR VA

C O N F I D E N T I A L STATE 024531

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: MARR, BF, US

SUBJECT: INSTALLATION OF RADIOISOTOPE POWER GENERATOR  
AT NAVFAC, ELEUTHERA

1. OFFICE OF NAVAL RESEARCH (ONR) OF US NAVY WISHES IN-  
STALL A SENTINEL-100F RADIOISOTOPE POWER GENERATOR (RPG)  
AT US NAVAL FACILITY, ELEUTHERA AS EARLY AS POSSIBLE. THE  
GENERATOR WILL BE USED AS A SOURCE OF ELECTRICAL POWER FOR  
THE FACILITY.

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WM RPG WOULD ARRIVE AT THE DOCKING AREA FOR NAVFAC ELEUTHERA ABOARD US-FLAG VESSEL UNDER CONTRACT TO US NAVY. RPG WOULD BE OFF-LOADED AND TRANSPORTED BY TRAILER APPROXIMATELY A MILE OVER LOCAL ROAD TO THE FACILITY WHERE IT WOULD BE SET WITHIN A FENCED ENCLOSURE ON US NAVY-CONTROLLED PROPERTY. RPG WOULD BE USED FOR APPROXIMATELY THREE YEARS AND THEN BE REMOVED FROM THE BAHAMAS.

3. GENERATOR, WHICH WEIGHS APPROXIMATELY 2600 POUNDS, PROVIDES NOMINAL 100 WATTS OF ELECTRICAL POWER THROUGH THE CONVERSION OF HEAT PRODUCED BY ITS RADIOACTIVE FUEL, STRONTIUM-90, INTO AN ELECTRIC CURRENT. RADIOACTIVE FUEL CAPSULE HAS SPECIAL SAFETY FEATURES SINCE IT WAS DESIGNED TO CONTAIN THE FUEL IN A SEAWATER ENVIRONMENT AT OCEAN DEPTHS OF UP TO 20,000 FEET FOR MORE THAN 525 YEARS. THIS ASSURES THE FUEL'S CONTAINMENT WITH NO RELEASE OF RADIOACTIVITY TO THE ENVIRONMENT. PROTECTION FOR LIVING ORGANISMS AGAINST THE RADIATION EMITTED BY THE RADIOACTIVE FUEL IS PROVIDED BY A TUNGSTEN BLOCK, WHICH COMPLETELY SURROUNDS THE FUEL CAPSULE.

4. SENTINEL-100F GENERATOR IS INCLUDED IN US DEPARTMENT OF TRANSPORTATION SPECIAL PERMIT NO 5862, WHICH CERTIFIES THAT THE RPG'S PACKAGE MEETS THE SAFETY CRITERIA OF THE INTERNATIONAL ATOMIC ENERGY AGENCY (IAEA). THIS MEANS THAT UNDER IAEA REGULATIONS US WOULD BE ABLE TO SEND RPG TO ANY IAEA MEMBER, WHICH THE BAHAMAS IS NOT, FOLLOWING A SIMPLE NOTIFICATION.

5. OTHER RPG'S SIMILAR TO THE SENTINEL-100F GENERATOR HAVE BEEN USED SUCCESSFULLY BY THE NAVY TO FURNISH ELECTRICAL POWER FOR APPLICATIONS BOTH WITHIN THE UNITED STATES AND FOREIGN TERRITORY. NOT ONE HAS FAILED OR CREATED A HAZARD. RPG'S ARE PRESENTLY IN USE IN THE FOLLOWING LOCATIONS: INDIANAPOLIS, INDIANA, FAIRWAY ROCK OFF THE ALASKA COAST; IN THE GULF OF MEXICO; NEAR MIDWAY ISLAND IN THE PACIFIC OCEAN; AND ON THE OCEAN FLOOR NEAR BERMUDA. IN ADDITION, ONE GENERATOR WAS FORMERLY IN USE IN ANTARCTICA.

6. REQUEST EMBASSY'S VIEWS ON POSSIBILITY AND ADVISABILITY  
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OF OBTAINING GCOB CONCURRENCE IN PROPOSED INSTALLATION. NAVY RECOGNIZES POSSIBILITY THAT PROPOSAL MIGHT PROMPT GCOB TO INCREASE THEIR QUID DEMANDS IN NEGOTIATIONS FOR RETENTION OF THREE MILITARY FACILITIES AND OPERATING RIGHTS IN THE BAHAMAS, OR TO REQUIRE USG TO SPECIFY IN GREATER DETAIL WHAT TYPES OF ACTIVITIES WILL BE CARRIED ON AND WHAT EQUIPMENT WILL BE LOCATED ON THESE FACILITIES. (ON LATTER POINT, DOD BELIEVES GCOB ALREADY AWARE OF FACILITIES ACTIVI-

TIES IN SUFFICIENT DETAIL AS RESULT OF EXTENSIVE BRIEFING  
AND TOUR GIVEN BAHAMIAN OFFICIALS IN MAY 1973.) DOD MAIN-  
TAINS THAT THE NAVY REQUIREMENT FOR RPG OUTWEIGHS POTENTIAL  
RISK. KISSINGER

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